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Assistant Director for Operations

6 January 1955

Chief, [] FOIAB3B1

Progress Report for December 1954

OPERATIONS

1. The most important Radio Propaganda Reports issued during the month:

a. Examined differences in Soviet leaders' statements on national defense policy, and suggested a possible line-up of Presidium members on this issue. In some respects this Report anticipated Ambassador Bohlen's observations of 21 December about possible policy disputes over the priority of heavy industry.

b. Reviewed Soviet propaganda about the United States before and after 7 November 1954 to detect any conceivable effects of Ambassador Bohlen's complaint to Malenkov on that date. It found inconclusive signs of a go-slow in the narrow field of U.S. domestic affairs as presented to the Soviet audience.

c. Described foreign radio content on the NATO discussions about authority to use nuclear weapons. These discussions offered the first opportunity to respond to an ONE request for assistance in assessing the effect on Western opinion of the coming of "atomic plenty."

2. With DD/I approval, a large volume of monitored Peking broadcast material relating to spy charges against Americans, initially limited in dissemination because of references to the Agency, was subsequently routinely given "Official Use Only" dissemination in response to wide consumer interest in this subject.

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3. [] Special Assistant for Intelligence to the DD/I, was briefed on [] services. Several suggestions were given him concerning [] support in his function as briefing officer for the DD/I. The future [] wire for the Director will actually terminate in [] office. FOIAB3B1

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4. [] has reached agreement with Reuters for coverage of Tass Hellschriber, but is negotiating with AP and UP to pass on to the latter services a portion of the increased cost of providing Tass Hellschriber material. Coverage is expected to be resumed early in January.

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5. [] assistance to the Army in Korean prisoner of war court martial cases continued. Approximately 140 additional cases were received from G-2 for processing. This will considerably extend the [] program of research and tape recording of POW broadcasts. Army also requested the presence of an [] witness at the forthcoming trial of Major Mugent at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This is being coordinated with the Office of the General Counsel.

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6. Messrs. Striebert and Washburn, Director and Deputy Director of the United States Information Agency, briefly visited [] head-FOIAB3B1 quarters on 23 December. They were shown the [] wire facilities, and services to USIA were briefly discussed. FOIAB3B1

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7. Several Voice of America officials and area desk chiefs were conducted to the [] on 10 December, where they were given an opportunity to listen to European Home Service Broadcasts. Their reaction was mixed and it was not clear whether [] is likely to receive an actual request for transmission of live broadcasts to VOA headquarters, as previously suggested.

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8. Coverage of broadcasts in the Kurmanji dialect of Kurdish, and in the Georgian language has been developed at the [] 25X1 [] in further extension of Central Asian monitoring.

FACILITIES

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9. [] Construction:

a. Housing construction under project DD1 - 156 - 54 is 47% complete.

b. The underground power line extension to the operations area is 75% complete. Electronic wiring in the new monitoring wing addition is in progress.

c. To permit third quarter obligation of funds, [] 25X1 Engineer District was asked to submit preliminary construction cost estimates for the next group of houses. The resultant rough total of \$302,000 is \$102,000 in excess of the budgeted amount based on cost of the FY 54 houses. With a view to providing adequate time for computation of more realistic costs, a recommendation was sent to the Comptroller that obligation of funds for this project be deferred to the fourth quarter of FY 55.

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d. [] was authorized to expend \$1200 for site planning for the balance of the overall housing construction program. This will facilitate accurate construction cost estimates.

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10. [] moved to the new [] along with USIA and embassy components.

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25X1 11. [] Chief Engineer, [] will go to [] about 1 February 1955 to conduct a survey leading to selection of a suitable site for an emergency monitoring operation.

ADMINISTRATION

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25X1 12. [] of the Office of Personnel visited the [] FOIAB3B1 [] stations on Agency career service matters. The opportunity to question [] first hand was of considerable benefit to the field personnel. [] also discussed the problem of career status for foreign national employees.

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FOIAB3B1 13. After consideration of the [] real estate tax with General Counsel and State Department officials, [] concluded that the best course of action at this time is to pay the tax assessed against the [] provided exemption from inspection of the station by tax authorities is granted. State Department was requested to ask the American Consul, [] to undertake negotiations with the [] Government looking toward this solution of the problem.

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25X1 14. On the basis of information from [] that [] a component of [] in [] had supplied radio monitoring facilities to the [] Government, a suggestion was made through the Special Assistant to the DC/I and OCB that future assistance to foreign governments in the establishment of radio monitoring facilities be coordinated with [] Although it subsequently developed that [] Washington had no record of [] having supplied monitoring equipment to the [] in this instance, [] agreed to cooperate with [] in the establishment of any future program of this nature.

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15. The Deputy Chief, Radio Propaganda Branch, completed the first section of his analyst recruiting trip, which turned up at universities a gratifying number of high-calibre potential candidates. He will visit midwestern universities in January.

25X1 16. A foreign national monitor was transferred from the [] to the [] to staff the Russian monitor position recently established in the [] T/O, thus strengthening the support which [] Bureau can render Radio Propaganda Branch.

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17. During the month one employee was separated and three entered on duty. The classified [] on duty strength on 31 December 1954 was [], four under ceiling. FOIAB3B1

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Enclosures: FOIAB3B1

- I - [] Production
- II - Personnel Supplement

RGS:bab

Distribution:

- 0 & 1 - Addsee
- 1 - AMW
- 1 - RGS
- 1 - Exec.

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